

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ADP-00 AGR-20 IGA-02 AID-20 EB-11

HEW-08 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 786

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

USNMR SHAPE

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE USNATO 3302

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, CT, NATO

SUBJECT: CENTRAL AFRICAN FAMINE RELIEF

REF: USNATO 3244

FOLLOWING UP ON DISCUSSION AT PERM REP LUNCHEON
ON JULY 5 AS REPORTED REFTEL, SECRETARY GENERAL HAS
CIRCULATED TO ALL DELEGATIONS BY PO/73/102 A COPY OF
ORTOLI LETTER ON NEED FOR AIRLIFT TO TRANSPORT SUPPLIES
FROM AFRICAN PORTS TO THE SAHELIAN AREA OVER NEXT TWO
MONTHS. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ORTOLI LETTER:

BEGIN TEXT:

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DEAR MR. SECRETARY GENERAL

WHILE I WAS IN NIGER DURING A VISIT TO AFRICA LAST
WEEK, THE PRESIDENT OF THAT COUNTRY, MR. HAMANI DIORI, DREW MY

ATTENTION TO THE EXTREMELY SERIOUS PROBLEMS WHICH HIS COUNTRY- AS WELL AS THE OTHER DROUGHT-RIDDEN COUNTRIES IN THE SAHEL - WAS ENCOUNTERING IN TRYING TO BRING FOOD AND SUPPLIES FROM WEST AFRICAN PORTS TO THE AFFECTED AREAS.

ALTHOUGH MANY SUPPLIES HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE FOR NIGER AND THE OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE SAHEL FROM VARIOUS SOURCES (USAID, EEC, WFP, CANADA, FRG, FRANCE ETC) ENABLING THE MOST PRESSING FOOD REQUIREMENTS TO BE MET, A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION STILL HAS TO BE FOUND TO THE PROBLEM OF TRANSPORTING THESE COMMODITIES TO THE PEOPLE THAT NEED THEM. FURTHERMORE, THIS PROBLEM WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY CRITICAL AS THE RAINY SEASON PROGRESSES SINCE THIS MAKES MANY OF THE LAND ACCESS ROUTES ALMOST IMPRACTICABLE.

LAST MONDAY, AT A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE COMMUNITY, I DREW THE ATTENTION OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES' FOREIGN MINISTERS TO THIS ALARMING SITUATION AND ASKED THEM TO PUT MILITARY AIRCRAFT AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED SO AS TO SPEED UP THE DELIVERY OF FOOD SUPPLIES, IN PARTICULAR THE MILK POWDER AND GRAIN PROVIDED BY THE EEC AND MEMBER COUNTRIES. THIS APPEAL SEEMS TO HAVE MET WITH A POSITIVE RESPONSE AND IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD CO-ORDINATE THIS OPERATION AT COMMUNITY LEVEL.

IT IS REASONABLE TO ASSUME, HOWEVER, THAT THE EFFORTS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES WILL NOT SUFFICE TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM COMPLETELY. IT APPEARS FROM FAO'S LATEST ESTIMATES THAT APPROXIMATELY 50 AIRCRAFT WILL BE NEEDED DURING THE NEXT TWO MONTHS TO TRANSPORT ALL THE SUPPLIES REACHING AFRICAN PORTS TO THE SAHEL.

I SHOULD THEREFORE BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD GIVE FAVOURABLE CONSIDERATION TO WHETHER AND, IF SO, TO WHAT EXTENT YOUR ORGANIZATION COULD MAKE SOME OF ITS AIRCRAFT AND LOGISTIC FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO THE SAHEL COUNTRIES.

SHOULD YOU SEE FIT, MY SERVICES WOULD BE GLAD TO PROVIDE
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ANYONE YOU CARE TO NOMINATE WITH WHATEVER FURTHER DATA IS NEEDED TO STUDY THIS MATTER. END TEXT.
MCAULIFFE

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To: STATE
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ROME
EC BRUSSELS
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